Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) An aqueous **film coating** ~~polymer~~ dispersion **for pharmaceutical formulations, wherein the aqueous film coating dispersion is:**

- prepared by polymerizing a mixture of monomers in water and in the presence of an emulsifying agent **to form a substantially uncrosslinked copolymer**, **and** ~~wherein the aqueous polymer dispersion is~~
- substantially free of residual emulsifying agent which is removed after the polymerization reaction, and

wherein the mixture of monomers comprises:

- acrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;
- methacrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and
- a polymerizable surfactant in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight, and

wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights.

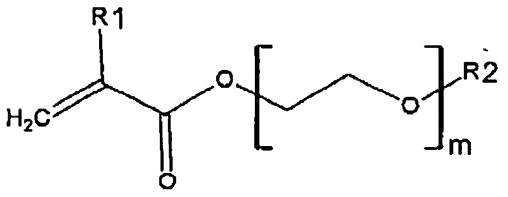
4. (Currently amended) An aqueous **film coating** ~~polymer~~ dispersion **for pharmaceutical formulations, wherein the aqueous film coating dispersion is:**

- prepared by polymerizing a mixture of monomers in water and in the presence of an emulsifying agent **to form a substantially uncrosslinked copolymer**, **and** ~~wherein the aqueous polymer dispersion is~~
- substantially free of residual emulsifying agent which is removed after the polymerization reaction, and

wherein the mixture of monomers comprises:

- ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

- methyl methacrylate in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and
- a monomer of the formula I and in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight:



(I)

wherein m is an integer from 1-55,

R1 is hydrogen or methyl, and

R2 is hydrogen or a carbon chain having 1 to 20 carbon atoms,

wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights.

5. (Currently amended) An aqueous **film coating** ~~polymer~~ dispersion **for pharmaceutical formulations, wherein the aqueous film coating dispersion is:**

- prepared by polymerizing **a mixture of** ~~the following~~ monomers in water and in the presence of an emulsifying agent **to form a substantially uncrosslinked copolymer, and**
- **substantially free of residual emulsifying agent which is removed after the polymerization reaction, and**

wherein the mixture of monomers comprises:

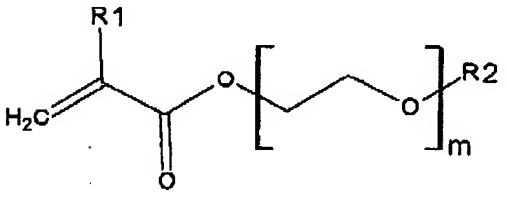
- acrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;
- methacrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and
- a polymerizable surfactant in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight, **and**

wherein [:] the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights, **and** the emulsifying agent is an emulsifier with a molecular weight lower than 15 kD~~; and~~

~~the aqueous polymer dispersion is substantially free of residual emulsifying agent which is removed after the polymerization reaction~~.

6. (Currently amended) An aqueous **film coating** ~~polymer~~ dispersion **for pharmaceutical formulations, wherein the aqueous film coating dispersion is:**

- prepared by polymerizing **a mixture of** ~~the following~~ monomers in water in the presence of an emulsifying agent **to form a substantially uncrosslinked copolymer, and**
- **substantially free of residual emulsifying agent which is removed after the polymerization reaction, and wherein the mixture of monomers comprises**:
- ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;
- methyl methacrylate in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and
- a monomer of the formula I and in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight:



(I)

wherein m is an integer from 1-55,
R1 is hydrogen or methyl, and
R2 is hydrogen or a carbon chain having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and
wherein [:] the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights, **and** [;] the emulsifying agent is an emulsifier with a molecular weight lower than 15 kD~~; and~~
~~the aqueous polymer dispersion is substantially free of residual emulsifying agent which is removed after the polymerization reaction~~.

7. (Currently amended) An aqueous **film coating** ~~polymer~~ dispersion **for pharmaceutical formulations, wherein the aqueous film coating dispersion is** prepared by polymerizing a mixture of monomers **in the presence of water to form a substantially uncrosslinked copolymer, and wherein the mixture of monomers consists of** ~~consisting~~:

- acrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;
- methacrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

: a polymerizable surfactant in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight, **and**

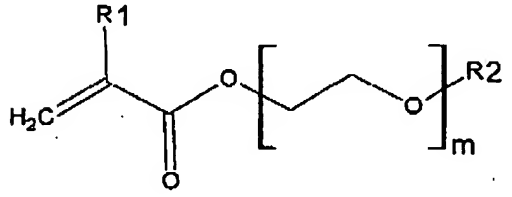
wherein [:] the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights~~, and the monomers are polymerized in water~~.

8. (Currently amended) An aqueous **film coating** ~~polymer~~ dispersion **for pharmaceutical formulations, wherein the aqueous film coating is** prepared by polymerizing a mixture of monomers **to form a substantially uncrosslinked copolymer, and wherein the mixture of monomers consists of** ~~consisting~~:

: ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

: methyl methacrylate in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

: a monomer of the formula I and in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight:



(I)

wherein:

m is an integer from 1-55;

R1 is hydrogen or methyl; and

R2 is hydrogen or a carbon chain having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and

wherein [:] the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights~~, and the monomers are polymerized in water~~.

9. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical ~~coating~~ film ~~coating~~ **for coating** a pharmaceutical dosage form, wherein the film is prepared by applying the aqueous **film coating** ~~polymer~~ dispersion according to any one of claims 3 to 8 to the surface of the dosage form and removing water from the aqueous **film coating** ~~polymer~~ dispersion to obtain the film.

10. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising:

a) a pharmaceutical core comprising a pharmacologically active ingredient; and

b) a film coating comprising a film according to claim 9.

11. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a pharmacologically active ingredient which is provided in a plurality of beads wherein each of the beads is coated with a film according to claim 9.

12. (Previously presented) The formulation according to claim 10 or claim 11, wherein the formulation is a controlled release formulation.

13. (Previously presented) The formulation according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the pharmacologically active ingredient has activity in the treatment of cardiovascular or gastrointestinal diseases.

14. (Previously presented) The formulation according to claim 13, wherein the pharmacologically active ingredient is a beta-blocking adrenergic agent.

15. (Previously presented) The formulation according to claim 14 in which the pharmacologically active ingredient is metoprolol or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. (Previously presented) The formulation according to claim 15, wherein the metoprolol salt is the tartrate, succinate, fumarate or benzoate salt.

Claims 17-26 (Canceled)

27. (Previously presented) The aqueous polymer dispersion according to claim 4, 6 or 8, wherein m is an integer from 2-55 in the monomer of formula I.

28. (Previously presented) The aqueous polymer dispersion according to claim 4, 6 or 8, wherein m is 4, R1 is hydrogen and R2 has 13 carbon atoms in the monomer of formula I.

29. (Previously presented) The aqueous polymer dispersion according to claim 4, 6 or 8, wherein m is 10, R1 is hydrogen and R2 has 11 carbon atoms in the monomer of formula I.

30. (Previously presented) The aqueous polymer dispersion according to claim 4, 6 or 8, wherein m is 25, R1 is hydrogen and R2 has 18 carbon atoms in the monomer of formula I.

31. (Previously presented) The aqueous polymer dispersion according to claim 4, 6 or 8, wherein m is 1, R1 is methyl and R2 is hydrogen in the monomer of formula I.

32. (Previously presented) The aqueous polymer dispersion according to claim 4, 6 or 8, wherein m is 9, R1 is methyl and R2 is hydrogen in the monomer of formula I.